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ABSTRACT

This guide outlines a 5-day program for parents called GESA (Gender/Ethnic Expectations and Student Achievement) that teaches supportive behaviors that develop student self-esteem and school success, and that serves to offset biases that students may encounter. Goals are the following: (1) to address the ways in which parents' expectations and behaviors may influence their child's learning and to develop positive skills that will enhance educational success; (2) to encourage parent involvement in the schools and at home; and (3) to promote cooperation among school, community, and home. Objectives are the following: (1) to review parental influences and expectations on the child's educational participation and achievement; (2) to provide activities for identifying messages that influence perceptions, expectations, and behavior related to gender, race, ethnicity, and culture; and (3) to share information on areas of disparity and positive, supportive behaviors for parents to use with their children. Each session discusses a topic in which disparity often occurs in the classroom or at home. Parents are taught to identify gender/ethnic-sensitive communication behaviors and ways to reduce bias at home. A curriculum rating form and 12 questionnaires are included. The following materials are appended: (1) A 214-item bibliography; (2) a brief program description; (3) a checklist; and (4) four handouts. (FMW)

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